

## **Southmayd Home, Inc.**

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*Enriching women's lives since 1898*

March 7, 2012

Senator Gerratana, Rep. Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee:

### **OPPOSING**

#### **HB 5322 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESSURE REDISTRIBUTION MATTRESSES AND PATIENT CARE IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES**

I am Gail Ford, Executive Director of Southmayd Home, a private, nonprofit Residential Care Home that serves elderly women in Waterbury. I am also a member of the CT Association of Residential Care Homes (CARCH). I am submitting this testimony to ask that Residential Care Homes be excluded from HB 5322.

Residential Care Home (RCH) is a model of care and support that is for people who need assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), not nursing care. The Department of Social Services, Aging Services Division description of RCH includes language that describes these homes as not requiring the training or skills of a licensed nurse. RCHs are not required to provide nursing services. The description also states residents must be ambulatory. Residential Care home is not a medical model of care.

Our residents are not bedridden, they don't use wheelchairs and they do not have pressure sores. Residents do not spend long periods of time, beyond sleeping overnight in their beds or sitting in one place. Residents come to the dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner and participate in activities during the day. While they are free to nap as they wish, residents of RCHs are up and about; most spend the better portion of the day outside of their rooms, some out of the building. RCH residents do not have pressure sores and don't need pressure redistribution mattresses.

Further, Residential Care Homes are Homes, not facilities, or institutions. Southmayd Home's mission to provide a residence that is safe and nurturing in a family-like atmosphere. Our residents often bring their own personal furniture for their rooms. We encourage them to make their rooms as personal and homelike as they wish. This is very important to them. Requiring a hospital bed with a pressure redistribution mattress is both unnecessary and unfair to our residents.

Requiring RCH residents to have a Pressure Redistribution Mattress that they don't need is not only unnecessary, it is intrusive and unfair. Requiring RCH's to purchase these mattresses is unnecessary and represents a significant financial burden to every home.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Gail S. Ford